

Sidebands

The Newsletter of the EAST GREENBUSH AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION



www.egara.club



January 2018

President - Tom Scorsone, KC2FCP
Secretary - Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR

Vice-President - Ridge Macdonald, KB2HWL
Treasurer, Webmaster & Newsletter Editor - Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ

A New Year Brings New Rewards

The New Year will kick off a new rewards program for EGARA members, allowing them to collect points to be used for gift cards, or towards annual dues or VE exam fees. The program was approved by the club's Board of Directors and was formally announced at the Holiday Party in December. The new program allows points to be earned for participating in various club activities, with each point being worth \$1.00. When a member accumulates ten points, they can be redeemed towards the reward of their choice.

MEMBER REWARDS ★ ★ ★ ★ PROGRAM

"Our new rewards program is aimed at recognizing EGARA members for their participation in the club's many events and activities, during the year" said EGARA President Tom Scorsone, KC2FCP. "It's another way of expressing thanks for all they do to support the club and its work."

A wide range of activities will be eligible for earning reward points, with the club's Secretary keeping track of how many each member earns. Points will be earned on an annual basis, with any unused points expiring at the end of each calendar year.

By special arrangement with ARRL, members who join or renew their membership through EGARA will score 5 bonus points, immediately giving them half the points they need to redeem an award.

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Santa Makes Visit to the EGARA Holiday Party

Christmas came early for Vince Gizzi, KC2USV, and his wife during EGARA's annual holiday get together on December 13th, when they won a brand new HT radio during the Secret Santa raffle. The Beofeng UV5R dual band transceiver featured all the bells and whistles, including an extended life battery, charger base and belt clip. ARRL gift certificates, hats, calendars and books were also raffled off from Santa's bag of holiday gifts.



Vince Gizzi, KC2USV, and his wife were the happy winners of a new dual band HT radio in the Secret Santa raffle at the EGARA holiday party

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The raffle was just one of the highlights of the event, with over 20 club members and spouses gathering to enjoy good conversation, many laughs and some delicious food at Moscatiello's Family Restaurant in Troy.

"It was a great evening and it was good to see so many club members taking time out of their busy holiday schedules to get together," said Club Secretary Steve Van Sickle, WB2HPR.

(More pictures from the party are on page 6)

Save the Date! Next Membership Meeting - January 10, 2018 at 7 pm

2018 Brings EGARA Rewards

(continued from page 1)

The following chart outlines the various activities that members can participate in to earn reward points:

EGARA Reward Activities

Point total earned for each activity listed in parenthesis

- Meeting attendance (1 point earned *per* meeting);
- Join or renew ARRL membership through EGARA (5 points - see more information on page 4);
- Participation in club-sponsored Public Service event (1 point *per* event);
- Field Day activities (1 point for *each* activity, including: set up, operating & tear down and clean up – total of 3 points possible);
- Hamfest participation (1 point).
- Making a presentation at a club meeting (1 point);
- Participation as a VE session team member (1 point *per* session -- available to certified VEs only);
- Authoring newsletter article (1 point *per* article published);
- Other activities that may be approved by the EGARA Board (*point value to be determined by the Board*)

A member earning ten points will be eligible for one of the following rewards of their choosing:

- \$10 prepaid gift card (Visa / Mastercard)
- Free admission to a club VE exam session for license upgrade (\$15 value);
- \$10 credit towards annual EGARA individual or family membership dues (\$10 is maximum credit that can be applied toward dues).

For members to receive proper credit, each will be responsible for making sure they complete the sign-up sheet provided at each qualifying event. The club Secretary will maintain a list of the points each member earns and let each member know when they have accumulated ten points. The club Treasurer will issue rewards based on certification provided by the Secretary.

Points will accrue on an annual basis and unused points will expire at the end of the calendar year. **Points and rewards are available to all members in good standing (members with annual dues paid by March 31st) and who have no lapse in their membership.**

The new rewards program begins January 1, 2018.

“We look forward to the benefits this new program will provide our members in return for their support of the club and its many activities during the year,” said EGARA President Scorsone.



Keeping an Eye on Power

By Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR

One of the most useful pieces of test equipment in the shack is an in-line RF power monitor. Often, the meters which are built-in to your rig may be difficult to read (because of their small size), or may be poorly calibrated. Also, many of the newer radios have gotten away from the old style d'Arsonval meters (the ones which utilize a moving needle) and have instead replaced them with bar-graph displays as a part of an already cramped and busy LCD or touch-screen display on the radio's front panel. Also, the meter display can be changed to measure other functions during transmit, leaving the radio's RF power performance un-monitored.

So what's the big deal, you say?

Monitoring your transmitter performance with an in-line stand alone meter will allow you to continuously monitor your transmitter's RF power output, modulation, forward and reflected power, and give you all the information you will need to judge or calculate your standing wave ratio (SWR). A low SWR indicates that the transmitter's coaxial cable is delivering maximum incident power to your antenna system, and the reflected power from the antenna is at minimum, or close to it. When the SWR is low, your transmitter is operating at maximum efficiency, allowing your signal to be heard at a greater distance, and at the same time, preventing damage to the transmitter due to a mismatched antenna system.

To achieve a low SWR, we commonly utilize an external antenna tuner between the transmitter and the antenna coax cable. An in-line RF power meter between the transmitter and the antenna tuner will allow us to judge the performance of not only the transmitter as previously described, but also allow us to see whether or not the external tuner is matching the antenna system to the transmitter.



Two examples of "passive" in-line power meters. On the left is a basic "CB" style SWR meter. On the right, a Bird Model 43 directional wattmeter, offering greater accuracy and ruggedness. They can either be purchased as new or found used at most hamfests. They are a useful addition to your station.

There are many different types of in-line RF power meters available to the amateur. (There are currently 270 different devices listed on the popular web site eHam.) Types range from passive to active devices which need to be powered by an external supply or the radio. These active devices have a lot of "bells and whistles" and some feature computer interfaces to allow their readings to be displayed on your station PC. Some of these are also very accurate, and software allows the user to display the antenna system parameters such as impedance, and vector components such as resistance and reactance.

Other in-line meters are of the passive type, requiring no power supply to operate. These range from the simplest CB type SWR meters to those with d'Arsonval dual crossed pointer meter movements. Generally, these have acceptable accuracy to be used throughout the HF range, and will get us "in the ball park". For greater accuracy, a passive meter like the Bird model 43 meter is capable of 5 % accuracy when used with the appropriate element (or slug). The advantage of the passive meter is that you can use it at the antenna outdoors without need to power it, allowing you to check your base antenna system (or your car's mobile antenna) without the need to provide A/C power to operate the meter.

Whether you opt for a simple passive device or a more elaborate externally powered meter, you will be making an investment in a piece of equipment which can always be a part of your station. Take a moment to check out the various offerings that you see on the web and in the pages of QST. Read the product reviews, and make an in-line power or SWR meter a part of your operation to keep your station operating at maximum efficiency.

FT-8: I'm not really feeling the magic

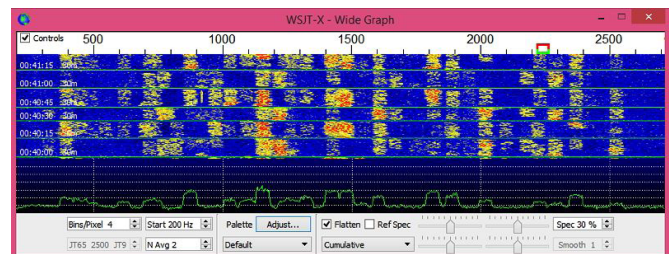
By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Partly out of curiosity and partly because my friend Jeff, KE9V, shamed me into it, I setup my Signalink interface, (downloaded WSJT-X from <https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjsx.html>) and started operating FT-8, the latest “shiny object” (as the ARRL dubbed it) from the K1JT team. As you probably know, this mode has really caught on with the digital crowd, and the waterfall is chock full of FT-8 signals. Part of the reason for this is that it has some of the characteristics of JT-65, but is not as excruciatingly slow.

Over the past couple of days, I've made 32 QSOs, including a couple of DX contacts. It's been fun to try something new, but to be honest, I'm not really feeling the magic.

Part of it is that I don't feel like I'm really doing anything. I downloaded the software, plugged in my digital interface, fooled around with the settings a bit, and then, the computer started making contacts. I have to click a few on-screen controls to make contacts, but even that's a step that could be easily programmed in by the SJT-X developers. (In fact, I wonder why they haven't done that already!)

Take a look at the screenshot to the right to see how a typical contact happens. When a CQ appears in the “Band Activity” window, you double click on it. When you do this, the software begins listening for signals on that frequency. In this case, I double-clicked on the CQ by WA9THI. When I double-clicked on the CQ, the program began decoding signals on that frequency and display the transmissions in the “Rx Frequency” window.



A waterfall display generated by WSJT-X

Then, I clicked on “Enable TX” and the program began the contact sequence, sending “WA9THI KB6NU EN82.” EN82 is my grid designator. This is shown as the first yellow line in the Rx Frequency window. The transmissions that I sent are highlighted in yellow. The transmissions sent by WA9THI are highlighted in red.

The sequence of transmissions shown there comprise a complete contact, and that whole process takes less than two minutes. And, once WA9THI received my first transmission, the sequence is all automatic. You just sit there and watch the two computers talk to one another.

While I can certainly appreciate the thought and the work that went into the design of the protocol and programming to implement it, sitting and watching the computers talk to one another just doesn't excite me. On the other hand, if you're one of those guys who wants to make contacts, but doesn't really want to talk to anyone, than this is the mode for you!

Here are a few more notes about FT-8 operation:

- Not surprisingly, synchronizing your computer with the other stations computer is very important. To do that, you need to get your computer to use the network time protocol (NTP). I failed to do this when I first installed WSJT-X, and while my waterfall was full of FT-8 signals, WSJT-X just wouldn't decode them.
- I got my PC laptop to talk ntp by installing Meinberg NTP software (<http://www.ntp.org/ntpfaq/NTP-s-def.htm>). Once I did that, WSJT-X magically started decoding transmissions.
- Most of the cool guys seem to be using Meinberg NTP, but there are other options. One of the guys in our club is using a program called Dimension 4, for example.
- Apparently, you don't have to limit your power output as you would with PSK-31. At first, I set my output power to 10 W. I had a bit of success at 10 W, but I expected more. When I asked on Twitter how much power other guys were using, most of them said that they were using more than that.

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No Magic in FT-8

(continued from page 4)

- For the last couple of sessions, I've been setting my output power to 25 W, and I've been having more success. I've now worked several Europeans on 30m.

- Even at 25 W, my signal reports are more often than not not as good as the signal reports I'm handing out. I haven't figured this one out yet. This doesn't happen to me when I'm operating CW, so I don't think it's my antenna.

- When I'm operating, I write down the calls of stations I've contacted. The reason for this is that while WSJT-X does have a logging function, it doesn't have a log window, so unless you have a great memory, you could end up working guys two or three times a session. That's probably not a big deal as contacts are quick, but I'd rather avoid doing that if I can.

- WSJT-X works "split." While most contacts take place on the same frequency, a station can call you anywhere in the passband of your receiver and WSJT-X will decode the signal and begin a contact. This threw me the first time or two that this happened, and I tried to change my transmit frequency to match the other station's. In doing so, I messed up the sequence. I now just let the contact proceed normally, and it works out great.

- When I work the other digital modes, I set my IC-746PRO to the USB-D mode. In this mode, the receive passband is narrower than for working phone. When operating FT-8, however, you don't want to limit that passband. Signals will appear across the entire 2.6 kHz of the USB signal, and if you narrow the passband, you won't be able to work those stations.

- WSJT-X checks the validity of call signs. This afternoon, there was a guy who had typed in his call as "WAMAD" and was calling CQ. WSJT-X wouldn't let me answer that CQ.

- Operating this mode opens up the possibility of working more stations whose callsigns spell words and adding those QSL cards to my collection. I have, for example, already worked K1GUY, N4HER, and N5SLY. I'm guessing that these guys don't operate CW.

All told, I've found this to be an interesting foray into a new digital mode. While I'm not feeling the magic that some others seem to be feeling when operating FT-8, it certainly will be a change of pace to operate this mode from time to time. Give it a shot and tell me what you think.

Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com. You can email him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

Time to Upgrade?

**EGARA's Next
FCC Exam Session is
January 6th at 10 am
East Greenbush
Community Library**



it's time to
**RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP**

The New Year is here and it's time to show support for your club by taking a few minutes to renew your annual EGARA membership!

Dues remain at just \$15 for an individual membership and \$25 for a family membership.

Best of all, in addition to all the benefits you've enjoyed in the past, we've added new ones! They include a new rewards program that lets you earn cash and credit for gift cards, VE exam sessions and even dues! You'll also enjoy the benefit of reward points when you join or renew your ARRL membership through the club.

Dues must be paid by March 31st to remain in good standing, so before you forget, take a moment to visit the EGARA website and pay them online. It's fast, safe and secure!

WWW.EGARA.CLUB/PAY-DUES

EGARA December Meeting Minutes

- The December meeting of the EGARA was called to order at 6:05 PM by President Tom Scorsone, KC2FCP. The meeting was held at Moscatiello's Restaurant as part of the club's annual Holiday Party. A total of 21 members and spouses attended. Tom welcomed everyone and extended holiday greetings to all;
- ARRL Eastern Division Manager John Fritze, K2QY, attended with his wife and extended greetings to all;
- Treasurer Bryan Jackson gave a report on the club's finances and announced a new rewards program for members (see details in story on pages 1 and 7);
- Following dinner, a Secret Santa raffle was held (see story on page 1 for more information);
- The Holiday Party and meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 pm.

The EGARA Holiday Party -- An Evening of Christmas Cheer



ARRL Eastern Division Section Manager John Fritze, K2QY, and his wife joined the EGARA family at the Christmas Party. John kindly brought items from ARRL for the gift raffle



David Jaeger, K2DEJ, became the newest member of EGARA, joining the club at the Holiday Party. Lee Hatfield, K2HAT, paid his 2018 dues as a Christmas present.



On the Beam

News & Notes

It's *Win-Win-Win* when your ARRL membership is through EGARA



EGARA members can now help the club and themselves when they join or renew their ARRL membership directly through the club. Here's how it works.

When ARRL memberships are processed directly through the club, the League will give EGARA a percentage of the dues paid to ARRL. For renewals, the club will receive \$2 for each. For new memberships -- or for members who rejoin ARRL after a lapse -- the club will receive \$15.

In return for having their membership processed directly by EGARA, club members will be immediately credited with five (5) bonus points in the club's new rewards program -- providing them with half the points needed for an award! It's that easy and simple.

"This new club program provides a tangible benefit for both the club and its members," said EGARA Treasurer Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ. It gives us extra income to support club programs and activities, while helping our members achieve rewards faster. It truly is a win-win-win for the club, our members and ARRL."

EGARA members are also reminded that it's necessary for at least 51% to also be members of ARRL in order for it to remain a League-sanctioned club. "ARRL provides many benefits to its members and now there's an additional incentive to join." **Members who wish to participate should contact Bryan Jackson at W2RBJ@Outlook.com.** Those who do not process their League membership applications directly through EGARA will not be eligible for rewards.

The membership arrangement with ARRL was worked out by Jackson and club Secretary Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR, during their visit to the League's headquarters in Newington, Connecticut in mid-December.

FCC Rejects Request for New Group of Shorter Call Signs

An attempt to expand the number of short call signs available to Amateur Extra licensees has been rejected by the FCC. The FCC has dismissed the rule-making petition filed last May by Thomas J. Alessi, K1TA, of Stamford, Connecticut, that sought to amend the Part 97 rules regarding Amateur Radio Service call signs.

Alessi had asked the FCC to make call signs consisting of one letter, followed by two digits, followed by one letter (1 × 1 format) available to Amateur Extra-class licensees. Alessi asserted that the number of Amateur Extra-class licensees who desire short call signs exceeds the available supply of 1 × 2 and 2 × 1 call signs, and that his plan would make available an additional 7,800 four-character call signs.

"Approximately fifteen million call signs are presently available in the sequential call sign system, but it does not include every amateur call sign that has been allocated to the United States," the FCC wrote in denying Alessi's petition. It also pointed out that the FCC had rejected a similar suggestion in 2010 that would have made certain additional call signs, including 1 × 1 call signs, available to Amateur Extra-class licensees. The Commission concluded at the time that enough call signs were already available for every Amateur Radio licensee to obtain an acceptable call sign. In addition, the FCC said in 2010 that it had no plans to revisit the issue.

"You have not demonstrated any changed circumstances or other reason that would warrant revisiting this decision," the Commission's letter concluded.

The History of Ham Radio: Beginnings

Chris Codella, W2PA, author, John Pelham, W1JA, editor, Phil Johnson, W2SQ, editor

(Editor's note: By special arrangement with the authors, Sidebands is pleased to present this multi-part series on the history of ham radio. Subsequent chapters will be published in future monthly editions of the newsletter)

Technologies that change the world often arise from the work of people whose passion and imagination were ignited by the wonder of something entirely new to human experience. Radio is one example. Before there were radio engineers, scientists were the professionals paid to spend their time studying and experimenting with radio. People who spent their own time and money to do the same thing were by definition amateurs, but were no less passionate, no less imaginative than their professional peers. Often the two—scientist and amateur—were, and still are, one and the same person.

They began with discovery, building upon hundreds of years spent trying to understand the nature of electricity and magnetism. The nineteenth century experiments and theories of Michael Faraday and James Clerk Maxwell established mathematical descriptions of how electromagnetic induction, and more importantly, radiation, occurred. Heinrich Hertz demonstrated it practically in 1886 showing how a spark in his “resonator” circuit, the basis for transmitters to come later, could be made to induce a secondary spark in another circuit (the receiver) located some distance away in his laboratory. His publication in 1887 kicked off a surge of new research and invention as scientists exploring the nature of electricity and magnetic induction shifted their attention to electromagnetic radiation.

But it was Guglielmo Marconi who, at age twenty-two, first brought together the individual inventions of several others to produce a practical communications system in 1896. That year, using a Hertz oscillator as a transmitter, a tube filled with metal filings called a coherer as a receiver, and aerials on both, he demonstrated his system by sending a message wirelessly over two miles of English countryside, and immediately applied for a patent. As described by DeSoto, he thus became the father of radio though not its singular inventor.

At this early stage, wireless consisted of generating high (radio) frequency noise over here, causing an electromagnetic disturbance to be sent out in all directions, and then transforming that disturbance into audio noise over there at some distant location. Turn the noise on and off and you could send messages from here to there by wireless telegraphy. Some variation on the Hertz oscillator was typically used as a transmitter to produce a broad, noisy signal. Receivers were constructed using any of several materials that were capable of natural rectification or in some other way could make the signal audible to the human ear. Since such a receiver had no power supply of its own, a listener would hear sounds produced directly and entirely by the energy of the incoming signal. The concept and apparatus were so simple that electrical hobbyists were attracted to experiment, too—the first radio amateurs.

In England, as the Victorian era came to a close, the wireless era was just beginning. Marconi extended his two miles to four over land, ten miles between ships, and then thirty-two across the English Channel. The biggest splash of all came on 12 December 1901. Using an antenna wire supported 400 feet up in the air by a kite flying over Signal Hill in Newfoundland, Marconi heard the Morse code letter ‘S’ transmitted by his station in Poldhu, Cornwall in southwest England. Spanning the Channel was one thing—the Atlantic Ocean was entirely another. The public noticed. His accomplishment dominated the press and the world’s attention that year. Wireless was no longer considered simply a curiosity pursued by hobbyists and a few scientists. And most significantly, after years of slow progress, both professional and amateur electrical experimenters turned to wireless communication as their primary pursuit and accelerated the pace of discovery.

During the first five years of the new century, 115 articles were published about wireless in a wide variety of non-technical journals,³ feeding the rising public appetite. A flurry of inventions followed, including voice transmission by Reginald Fessenden, the two-electrode vacuum tube diode by John Ambrose Fleming and the Audion three-electrode vacuum tube by Lee DeForest.

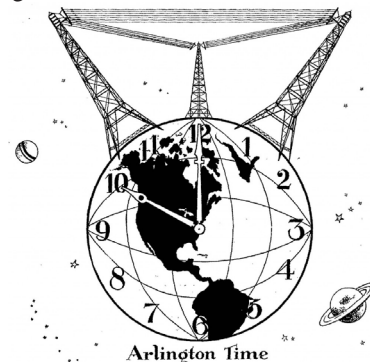
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Ham Radio: Beginnings

(continued from page 8)

The term radio was first adopted by the International Wireless Telegraph Convention in late 1906, though its general use would come much later.

Perhaps the most obvious first application of the new technology was communicating with ships at sea, where wires could never reach. Although a few individuals in the US Navy took an early interest beginning in the 1890s, the service at first refused to embrace radio, judging it too radical.⁵ Some senior officers even considered it an affront to their autonomy on the high seas, rejecting the very notion of receiving orders from land via wireless. But Marconi's experiments in England led to the adoption of radio aboard Royal Navy ships. After similar successful US trials in 1899 during the Americas Cup Races, the Navy established a wireless telegraph board tasked with advising the service about the use of radio. The board recommended it be given a full trial, and in 1901 they further recommended abolishing the Navy's "winged messenger" program, which used long distance carrier pigeons, in favor of radio. The Navy evaluated the competing systems available at the time and eventually chose to deploy equipment from DeForest and his US-based company, influenced by worries of supply problems should war break out in Europe.



QST Cover drawing, November, 1916

In addition to message communications for ships, the Navy saw the utility of using radio for broadcasting the time and weather conditions, both critical in navigation. The first regularly scheduled time broadcasts began in September 1904 from a station at the Boston Navy Yard. With no automatic, direct link between the landline feed from the Naval Observatory in Washington and the transmitter in Massachusetts, an operator had to manually keep pace with his key as he listened to the clicks from the observatory on the telephone. They later devised an automatic arrangement out of concern for accuracy, if not operator fatigue.

In 1913, NAA, the Navy's powerful 100-kilowatt coastal station at Arlington, Virginia, became one of the most widely monitored information broadcasters. Known to amateurs simply as "Arlington," they often used it as a reference—something to listen for to test their equipment—as well as a source of time and weather information. The first issue of QST carried an article called "Arlington Notes," containing a summary of the format NAA used to broadcast weather conditions to ships along the Atlantic coast and on the Great Lakes.

In an era when "local time" truly meant local, Arlington introduced an ability to synchronize time across a wide region, and to areas not touched by telegraph lines.

ARRL: What's in a Name?



The name American Radio Relay League might seem a bit strange for the century old organization that represents ham radio throughout the United States. You might ask, "Why not the American Amateur Radio Association or something similar? *Relay League*? How did they come up with that?"

The answer lies in part to the limits radio faced at the turn of the last century. Radio equipment at the time was still in its infancy and sets used by amateur radio enthusiasts were usually limited in both power and sensitivity. That meant the range of signals was often limited too, with reliable reception of only a few hundred miles at best -- and sometimes much less. As a result, it was found that the best way to reliably send messages over longer distances was to relay them using a series of stations placed at regular intervals. In 1914 the American Radio Relay League was founded by Hiram Percy Maxim so these relay stations could be better organized and coordinated.

Since then, the ARRL has come to be the national organization that represents Amateur Radio operators through its wide ranging mission that includes five main areas: Public Service, Advocacy, Education, Technology, and Membership.

So although technology may have surpassed the need for radio relays today, the ARRL name is the banner of a proud heritage.

CALENDAR

January 6, 2018 - FCC VE Exam Session, East Greenbush Community Library at 10am

January 10, 2018 - EGARA Monthly Membership Meeting, Masonic Temple, 7 pm.

May 12, 2018 - EGARA Hamfest 2018 - 8 am to 1 pm at the East Greenbush Fire Department.

Pro Tip: ID Your Orange Drops



Need to determine the value of an Orange Drop cap? Use the code on the capacitor (below the manufacturer's part number) to determine its value, as in this example.

Manufacturer Coding:

224 = capacitance in pico farads - first two digits are significant digits, third digit is the number of digits that follow (ie: 22 + 0000 = 220,000pF = 0.22μF in this case)

K = tolerance, F = ±1%, J = ±5%, K = ±10%, etc.

600V = voltage rating (600 volts in this case)

9644 = date code (44th week of 1996 in this case)



For Sale

- **Kenwood TS-480 Hf Rig** – 200 w PEP output, w/ manual, cable, and microphone – like new - \$700 obo; Contact: Steve Van Sickle, WB2HPR, by phone at 326-0902.
- **NYE Tuner Model MB 5-A** - 3KW - \$300.00
- **HEATKIT DX 35 Transmitter** - AM & CW with VFO - \$ 125.00 - For two items above contact: Tom Scorsone at KC2FCP@nycap.rr.com

Looking to Buy, Sell or Swap?
 Send your info to W2RBJ@outlook.com

January 1st Event for Legacy Keys

January 1st is reserved for Straight Key Night (SKN), sponsored by ARRL. The 24-hour event begins at 0000 UTC on January 1 (New Year's Eve in US time zones), and is not a contest but a day dedicated to celebrating Amateur Radio's Morse heritage. Participants are encouraged to get on the air and enjoy conversational CW contacts, preferably while using a straight key or a semi-automatic key ("bug"). No points -- everyone's a winner. Participants can submit votes for best fist and most interesting QSO at the ARRL website.

The East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association

Organized in 1998, by Bert Bruins, N2FPJ, (Silent Key) and Chris Linck, N2NEH, the East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association, an ARRL affiliate, is committed to providing emergency services, educational programs, and operating resources to the amateur radio operators and residents of the Capital Region of New York State. The club station is W2EGB. The club also has several VHF and UHF repeaters open to club members and the public.